

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:  
5 a communications server;  
at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to  
a public telephone network;  
a remotely connected device communicating with said communications  
server, said remotely connected device acting as a locally connected digital  
10 telephone; and  
a remote telephone located in the vicinity of said remotely connected device,  
telephonic communications being provided to and from said remote telephone in  
cooperation with said communications server and controlled by said remotely  
connected device.  
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2. A VPCN as in Claim 1 further comprising:  
a plurality of digital telephones connected to said communications server.
3. A VPCN as in Claim 1 wherein said remotely connected device is a web  
20 enabled device connected over the Internet, said VPCN further comprising:  
a web server connected to said communications server and the Internet.
4. A VPCN as in Claim 3 wherein said web enabled device is a personal  
computer (PC).  
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5. A VPCN as in Claim 4 wherein said PC includes a modem connecting said  
PC to the Internet.
6. A VPCN as in Claim 1 wherein said communications server is a PBX server.  
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7. A VPCN as in Claim 1 wherein said remotely connected device is a wireless  
access protocol (WAP) device connected over the Internet.
8. A VPCN as in Claim 7 wherein said WAP is a personal digital assistant  
35 (PDA) with a wireless connection to the Internet.
9. A virtual private communications network (VPCN) comprising:  
a communications server;

a web server connected to said communications server and the Internet;  
a plurality of digital telephones connected to said communications server;  
at least one communications trunk connecting said communications server to  
a public telephone network;

5 a plurality of remotely connected web enabled devices communicating with  
said communications server, said remotely connected devices each acting as a  
locally connected digital telephone; and

a remote telephone located in the vicinity of each of said remotely connected  
web enabled devices, telephonic communications being provided to said digital  
10 telephones from remote telephones in cooperation with said communications server  
and controlled by said remotely connected web enabled devices.

10. A VPCN as in Claim 9 wherein at least one web enabled device is a personal  
computer (PC).

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11. A VPCN as in Claim 10 wherein at least one PC includes a modem  
connecting to the Internet, said at least one PC being connected to the web server  
over the Internet.

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12. A VPCN as in Claim 9 wherein said communications server is a PBX server.

13. A VPCN as in Claim 9 wherein at least one remotely connected device is a  
wireless access protocol (WAP) device connected over the Internet.

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14. A VPCN as in Claim 13 wherein said WAP is a personal digital assistant  
(PDA) with a wireless connection to the Internet.

15. A method for communicating with a private communications network, said  
method comprising the steps of:

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a) connecting a remotely located web enabled device to a  
communications server; and

b) initiating calls at the communications server from and to a remote  
telephone in the vicinity of said remotely located web enabled device, said remotely  
located web enabled device initiating and controlling said calls.

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16. A method as in Claim 15 wherein the step (a) of connecting the remotely  
located web enabled device comprises the steps of:

- i) calling an Internet service provider;
  - ii) negotiating a modem connection with said Internet service provider;
- and
- iii) connecting to a web server connected to said communications server.

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